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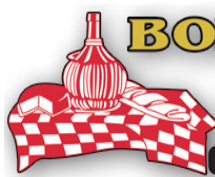
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Lantigua Endorses Kendrys Vasquez



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Former Lawrence Mayor Willie Lantigua has endorsed Kendrys Vasquez for Mayor of Lawrence.



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VALLEY PATRIOT OF THE MONTH

Arthur Goulet ~ Cold Weather Seabee!

John Cuddy

VALLEY PATRIOT HERO REPORTER

Lawrence native Arthur Goulet attended St Anne's Grammar School and graduated from Lawrence High School with the Class of 1955. Shortly after finishing high school, he joined the US Navy. He completed Military Basic Training at the U.S. Navy Training Center at Port Deposit, Maryland, more commonly known in the fleet

then, as United States Naval Training Center Bainbridge. The center closed in 1976. Arthur served in the US Navy's Construction Battalions, the Seabees. He served six years on Active Duty, and twenty-four years in the Naval Reserves. He was assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion One based out of Davisville, Rhode Island and Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Twenty-Seven, based at the Naval Air Station in Brunswick, Maine

During our interview at the Sunnyside Diner, on Broadway in Lawrence, a few blocks from the now closed Franco American Veterans Post 1, of which Arthur is a former Post Commander, Arthur recounts his "frigid" travels with the US Navy. Arthur's service to our Nation took him to Naval Station Argentia Newfoundland, US Air Force Base Thule Air Base Greenland, where he was assigned to Camp Century and Camp Tuto, which was operated by the US Army. He was also assigned to Fort Wainwright Alaska, near Fairbanks, Alaska. Arthur's coldest tour was Operation Deep Freeze at McMurdo Station, Antarctica.

Arthur also served at Naval Base Guantanamo Bay, Cuba during the height of the "Cold War", giving him a firsthand look at the unfolding of events now known as the Cuban Missile Crisis. He was on site when the US Naval Base Commander closed travel off to and from Cuba. This happened during the tail end of the Cuban Revolution, Communist forces captured twenty-nine US Navy sailors who were on liberty in the two towns outside the Naval Base. The sailors were taken prisoner on June 27, 1958, by rebel soldiers, led by Raúl Castro, brother of revolutionary leader Fidel Castro. The last of the sailors was released on July 18, 1958. US Navy leadership, then placed all Cuban territory outside of the base fence line, as off-limits to U.S. personnel,



the Commanding Officer issuing the order on January 1, 1959, this was the same day that the Cuban government of Fulgencio Batista collapsed.

One of the more interesting stories he told me was about being "stranded" in Christ Church, New Zealand, with another sailor for around a month. He was assigned to McMurdo station, awaiting travel orders, and he and the other sailor were billeted in an apartment with a shared car. With no assigned military duties, they simply checked in with the US Navy once a day, spending the rest of their time wandering around town. Arthur found a pub full of "locals",

HERO: PAGE 18



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Stop Sweeping the Homeless Out of Sight

At a time when the Merrimack Valley desperately needs our elected officials at the highest level of government to experience the homeless crisis first hand, Lowell, like so many other communities, sweeps their homeless problem out of sight, or under the rug, as some may say.

At issue; Lowell City Councilor Rita Mercier revealed this month that the homeless who live downtown were cleared away by the city prior to a visit from the governor because they didn't want the city to "look bad".

The Lowell Sun reported: "When Gov. Charlie Baker and other state officials came to the city last week to announce a \$400,000 grant to improve the South Common, the homeless were moved along and the city cleaned up the area to make it look good for the governor, she said."

We applaud Rita Mercier's efforts to shine a spotlight on the homeless issue as too many in power have ignored it for far too long. We know she's a pit-bull who will do everything humanly possible to find real - short term and longer term - solutions for the addicted and homeless.

But this isn't just a Lowell problem. Former Lawrence Mayor Dan Rivera was notorious for bulldozing homeless encampments and clearing out the homeless when high level government officials came to town, or when events were to take place that draw in outsiders.

We believe this is the absolute wrong approach to dealing with the overwhelming crisis of homelessness and addiction in our communities.

We say let Governor Baker, and every other government official, see the human carnage first-hand every day like the rest of us. Let's stop pretending this isn't a monumental crisis and let those in charge of solving the problem deal with the results of their failed policies and programs for the last ten years.

Let them feel as uncomfortable as the rest of us are when we have to deal with this human tragedy as it invades our families, neighborhoods, workplaces, and our public parks. Ignoring the ugly reality on our streets only allows them to dismiss this issue as either someone else's responsibility or not a big enough priority to tackle.

The number of people who become homeless or addicted grows every day as Americans of every race, age, and faith have been discarded by those who run our government. This needs to stop. These are our sons and daughters, our parents and even grandparents. They deserve more respect than this.

We don't have all the answers on the homeless and addiction crisis, but we do know that moving the homeless out of sight is not among them.

We also do not want you to overlook the stunning irony of the governor spending more of your tax money on parks in Lowell, so that the homeless will have a prettier place to live in, litter with needles, and defecate in. Maybe that \$400,000 should have been used for more rooming houses or temporary housing.

While we must be compassionate and offer as much help as we can to those on the streets, we cannot begin to address real solutions by denying the quality-of-life problems they cause in our communities.

We are all suffering from this crisis.

It's time to take the bull by the horns and we are glad that Rita Mercier is one of those people willing to do so. ♦

Stop Combined Sewer Overflows, Part II

Linda Dean Campbell
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

At a recent public hearing about how to spend \$4.8 billion in federal dollars coming to the Commonwealth, the need to address combined sewer overflows (CSOs) in the Merrimack River came up again and again. It's been a rainy summer, causing millions of gallons of sewage to overflow into our river. During Tropical Storm Ida, a whopping 130 million gallons of untreated sewage overflowed into the Merrimack – roughly 25% of the region's average annual discharge in just 2 days. This issue will not disappear on its own, and these federal funds give us the opportunity to upgrade our wastewater infrastructure to fix the problem.

I was glad to join Representative Christina Minicucci and Matthew Thorne and John Macone from the Merrimack River Watershed Council to testify in support of significant funding to address CSOs. We advocated for more than the Governor's proposal of \$400 million, as more will be necessary to make serious headway on this issue.

Our wastewater treatment facilities have done studies for years and know



what infrastructure upgrades are needed to stop CSOs. They have already poured millions of dollars into solutions, but hundreds of millions of dollars are still needed. The plans are in place, but our communities cannot foot the bill alone. Federal support is a must, and we need more than what the Governor has proposed.

I am grateful that Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs Katie Theoharides testified from a CSO outfall in Lawrence to further highlight the many negative impacts of CSOs on the Merrimack Valley. Never before has there been such public attention on this issue and such strong public consensus that we need to act now!

I was also honored to be recognized by the Massachusetts Rivers Alliance for lead sponsorship and passage of the state law requiring public notification of

CSOs.

The new law, which I sponsored with Senator Pat Jehlen and former Representative Denise Provost, is essential for protecting public health and preserving our drinking water supply, and it's a critical step toward eliminating CSOs. Getting this bill across the finish line took a massive team effort and a broad bipartisan coalition, and I am so thankful to Mass Rivers for their partnership every step of the way – and to the many environmental organizations, state officials, and municipal leaders who supported our effort.

Our work continues! We will continue to push for federal funding to keep our Merrimack River clean, safe, and healthy.

State Representative Linda Dean Campbell represents the cities of Methuen and Haverhill in the State Legislature. She serves as House Chair of the Joint Committee on Advanced IT, the Internet and Cybersecurity and as Chair of the Special Joint Oversight Committee on the Holyoke Soldiers' Home COVID-19 Outbreak. She can be reached at Linda.Campbell@mahouse.gov or (617) 722-2380. ♦



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VOTE NOVEMBER 2nd!

Mike Downs

Methuen City Council * West District

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TMF 10th ANNIVERSARY GALA
The Movement Family is a group of local volunteers who go into the streets of Lawrence delivering food and clothing to the homeless on a daily basis. Last month they celebrated their 10th anniversary at the Claddagh in Lawrence. They sold out the upstairs function hall with 240 people in attendance and raised more than \$6,000. TMF founder Michael Gorman gave out several awards and certificates of appreciation. To donate or help serve food to the homeless in Lawrence TMF welcomes anyone to join them each Wednesday evening at 8pm at 2 South Broadway in Lawrence.

ELECTION DAY
IS NOVEMBER 2ND
We are losing our democracy at the local level. In Lawrence less than 10% of Lawrence citizens voted. In Methuen they didn't hold a primary and in Haverhill the turnout was abysmal as well. In Methuen, with all the problems and scandal in the school department there are zero challengers to the six incumbents this year. Make sure you vote on November 2nd in your local elections. Who you elect to run your city government is actually more important than elections at the state and federal level. **VOTE NOV. 2nd!**

WHY GOOD PEOPLE DON'T RUN FOR OFFICE
In Haverhill, a candidate for city council was attacked by the Eagle-Tribune last week with a front-page Sunday story detailing her brushes with the law when she was addicted to alcohol and other substances. Dee O'Neil, a substance abuse, and homeless advocate certainly has had a colorful past. But her recovery and what she has done with her life since her recovery has been remarkable. O'Neil runs a nonprofit where she feeds over 200 veterans and homeless individuals every single day. She counsels those who are trying to recover, and she has often reached out to government officials to help out the downtrodden only to have doors slammed in her face. Now, despite her past, she has put her name on the ballot for city council so that some of those doors will open up for the homeless and addicted. Instead of writing a glowing piece on the redemption of a former addict paying it forward in the community, The Tribune decided to go with the salacious scandal piece that dragged O'Neil through the mud in order to bolster the numbers of other candidates who might be more palatable to the Trib. I say, anyone who has been through what Dee O'Neil has

TOM DUGGAN'S NOTEBOOK



Red 13 had their grand opening on Broadway in Lawrence last week and Acting-Mayor Kendrys Vasquez, Senator Diana DiZoglio's office and the Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce were on hand to congratulate them. Red 13 Creative is a group of talented music and music video producers who promote local and national artists.

been through deserves accolades for bravery, putting her name on the ballot knowing that sleazy media outlets might try to make money on her past mistakes. Dee O'Neil deserves at least one of your votes for city council in Haverhill.

PERRY ENDORSES MCCARTY
Well, here's one for the books. After a year of Methuen Councilor Jim McCarty attacking Mayor Perry, questioning his integrity, attacking his staff, and eliminating their jobs (or pay) from the budget, and claiming everywhere he went that Perry was a "puppet for Sharon Pollard," he now has the endorsement of Perry in his reelection. Perry has no opposition and really didn't need the endorsement and that makes the endorsement all the more fascinating.

LOCAL CANDIDATES WORTH CONSIDERATION
With no challengers running for Methuen School Committee all six incumbents will get reelected on November 2nd no matter who you vote for. Two candidates, however, deserve your vote more than the rest, Jana Zanni Pesce and Luanne Santos. With all the insider shenanigans going on with some of the other members it would be nice to see a rebuke of that behavior by bolstering Santos and Zanni-Pesce's election numbers so that they top the ticket.

The District "E" City Council race in Lawrence is going to be very important to the direction of the city for the next ten years. Stephany Infante is running to replace the retiring David Abdoo and has shown how serious she is by putting in the work to help the community.

In the Lawrence School Committee

rates Lenin Roa and Santiago Reyes Cruz are two newcomers who deserve a shot at trying to regain control of the Lawrence Public Schools.

In the Lawrence district city council races there is no doubt that Maria DeLacruz has worked hard for her constituents and though I take exception to her vote on the TMF group using the bus station on Common Street, I would be hard press to deny how good she is at her job.

In the Lawrence at-large city council race, Vietnam veteran Rich Russell, and incumbent Ana Levy certainly deserve your consideration.

And in Lawrence District "F" Marc Laplante may not have an opponent, but he's done such a good job as council president and as a councilor for more than two decades that we hope the people of his district give him a vote instead of leaving it blank.

In the Lawrence District "C" City Council race nothing would make me happier than to see Jorge Gonzalez get back on the council. I like Jorge, he's a no-nonsense kind of guy and he sure is entertaining.

In the Methuen City Council at-large race there's really only one candidate worth considering and that's former councilor Joyce Campagnone. She's got a handle on the charter and how it works, she understands the shenanigans that go on behind the scenes. She also has a way of outing information that other politicians are trying to conceal, sometimes without realizing it, making her a definite pick for me!

In the Lawrence Mayor's Race, I've been pretty vocal about my support of Brian DePena. Brian is a member of the Valley Patriot family. What does that mean? It means when we hold our yearly charity BASH he donates to our

WINSTON SAYS!



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scholarships (and he always asks to remain anonymous). He also reaches out to help our homeless efforts and has been quietly supporting TMF's weekly dinner for the homeless. Whenever we reach out to Brian about helping a local veteran, donating food, or anything else, he is always willing to help our efforts. But my support of Brian goes much deeper. Brian isn't one of these sleazy politicians who plays dirty to get his way. He is not hungry for power. He rejects the idea of "white privilege" and opposes the teaching of critical race theory (anti-white racism in the schools). What's more he's a businessman. He understands budgets from the bottom up. He knows the value of a dollar and thinks the city would be much better if it was run like a business. DePena also says he wants to hold teachers and administrators in the schools accountable for their students' failures, while also being focused on wrestling control of the schools away from the state and return local control.

MERRIMACK VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EVENTS
MVCC Next Generation Leaders Apple Picking & Networking at Smolak Farms - Wednesday, October 13th, 5-7:00pm at 315 S. Bradford Street, North Andover, MA 01845 Enjoy Networking, Apple Picking & Cider/Donuts! Join other Young People in Business for an evening of making new business connections

NOTEBOOK: NEXT PAGE



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NOTEBOOK: FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

while also having a fun time enjoying the atmosphere and fun of Smolak Farms!

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MVCC Public Safety Breakfast Forum
October 15th, 7:30– 9:15am at The Lanam Club, 260 North Main St, Andover, with Featured Confirmed Speakers: District Attorney Jonathan Blodgett, Essex County Sheriff Kevin E. Coppinger, Andover Police Chief Patrick Keefe, Haverhill Police Chief Robert Pistone, Lawrence Police Chief Roy Vasque, Methuen Police Chief Scott McNamara, North Andover Police Chief Charles Gray, NECC Police Chief Deborah Crafts

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**

MVCC Virtual “How to Effectively Communicate, Market and Recruit Hispanics Using Traditional and Digital Methods of Communication”

Friday, October 22nd, from 8 – 9:30am. Zanibel Melo, a digital media expert, and Eduardo Crespo, CEO, Hispanic Market Solution, will present the Understand, Reach, Employ and Services (URES) methodology that will help companies engage with this growing market segment.

Takeaways: Why reaching the Latino market makes business sense

Communication strategies that work
Cultural norms and linguistic considerations

What digital platforms are more conducive to marketing and recruiting Latinos. What type of content resonates to attract Latinos attention? Learn what digital tools Latinos use and for what purpose. Thank you to our sponsor: Merrimack Valley Chamber Means Business Program. Sponsorship is available call the Chamber Office and speak to Michael Bevilacqua at 978-686-0900. While this event is free, registration is required at www.MerrimackValleyChamber.com
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MVCC 2021 Women in Business Conference with Featured Speaker: Congresswoman Lori Trahan
Monday, October 25th, at Noon.

Confirmed Featured Speaker: Congresswoman Lori Trahan
Speakers Panel Includes: Superintendent Maureen Lynch –

Whittier Regional Technical High School
Marcia Paasewe, BSN, RN – ACSAH Certified Care manager Samaritan Home Care. Deborah Wilson – President/CEO Lawrence General Hospital. Moderated by: Dana DeFranco, Co-Owner Battle Grounds Coffee Company. Sponsorship is available call the Chamber Office and speak to Michael Bevilacqua at 978-686-0900. Title Sponsor: TD Bank. Premier Sponsor: Merrimack Valley Chamber Means Business Program.

\$24 for Members, \$35 for Future Members. Sponsorship is available call the Chamber Office and speak to Michael Bevilacqua at 978-686-0900 ◇

Establishment Republicans Establish Lack of Consistent Standards

Brian Genest

VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Blatant hypocrisy. Shameless double standards. Profiles in cowardice. All were on display at the recent meeting of the Massachusetts Republican State Committee.

Not one establishment Republican had a word to say about Tom Mountain, the former MassGOP vice chair who has stepped down from the party’s executive committee. Not one commented on Turtleboy’s multi-part series or live YouTube coverage of Mountain’s alleged online escapades. Not one condemned Mountain. In fact, they voted against censuring him.

As you may recall, it was an entirely different story recently when a state committeewoman made private comments that were leaked to the media about a gay congressional candidate adopting children with his husband. In that case, there were demands for the state committee member to resign. There were demands for MassGOP Chairman Jim Lyons to make her resign. There were demands for Lyons to resign. This time, there were crickets.

The resolution to censure Mountain was simple and straightforward.

“Whereas: The Massachusetts Republican Party is in the process of gathering a talented and skilled set of Republican candidates to run for political office in 2022, and

Whereas: In order to achieve victory, our Party and its leadership must be seen as having more integrity, more decency and more real conviction than our Democrat counterparts, and

Whereas: In order to achieve victory, we must function as one entity with all members in support of that common goal, and

Whereas: State Committeeman Thomas Mountain has repeatedly engaged in activities designed to hurt our fundraising efforts and recruitment efforts, and

Whereas: Mr. Mountain has repeatedly advised Republican groups NOT to donate to the Massachusetts Republican Party, and

Whereas: Mr. Mountain has embarrassed the Party with his postings



on social media designed to objectify young women, and

Whereas: Mr. Mountain has attacked a colleague for her religious beliefs and called for her resignation, while now refusing to resign after his bad behavior, and

Whereas: Mr. Mountain continues to engage in harmful activity designed to hurt our chances not only in 2022, but in the indefinite future, be it

Resolved: That this body censured Mr. Mountain for his actions, and be it

Resolved: That this body calls on Mr. Mountain to immediately resign from the Massachusetts Republican State Committee.”

The resolution failed, with 22 members voting in favor, 35 against and 13 abstaining.

Who voted against this no-brainer of a resolution? For starters, payroll patriots. There’s no shortage of state committee members on the state payroll and they were among those voting against the resolution.

At the top of the list are Paul Frost of Auburn and Shawn Dooley of Norfolk, who lost his bid for party chairman earlier this year. Both are state representatives. So much for leadership.

Other state committee members who voted against the censure include:

* Brock Cordeiro of Dartmouth, an administrative/legislative aide in the Bristol County Sheriff’s Office for \$75,193

* Will Crocker of Centerville, who was thrown out of the state legislature last year, the southeast regional director at the Massachusetts Office of Business Development for \$75,000

GENEST: PAGE 13

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| 1BR | 1 | ** | 30% | n/a |
| 2BR | 22 | \$1,525 | 60% | \$45,750 |
| 2BR | 2 | ** | 30% | n/a |
| 3BR | 3 | \$1,761 | 60% | \$52,800 |
| 3BR | 1 | ** | 30% | n/a |

| Maximum Income | | |
|----------------|----------|----------|
| #HH | 30% AMI | 60% AMI |
| 1 | \$23,700 | \$47,460 |
| 2 | \$27,100 | \$54,240 |
| 3 | \$30,500 | \$61,020 |
| 4 | \$33,850 | \$67,740 |
| 5 | \$36,600 | \$73,200 |
| 6 | \$39,300 | \$78,600 |
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Jana Zanni Pesce

School Committee

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT JANA ZANNI PESCE

Methuen Votes for City Council November 2nd

Towns in Massachusetts are generally governed by a board of selectmen and a town manager who is hired by the board and answers to them. Towns have their municipal elections in the spring.

Cities in Massachusetts are run by a mayor and a city council, all of whom are elected by the voters. Cities have their municipal elections in November each year.

While different in each city, every elected official in Methuen comes up for election at the same time. Methuen elects the mayor, city council and school committee for two years and is limited to three consecutive terms.

This year, Methuen Mayor Neil Perry is seeking his second term and has already announced that he will not seek a third. After a heated and competitive mayoral election two years ago, this year Perry is running unopposed.

Methuen’s City Council is broken down by district and city-wide representation. There are three city councilors elected city-wide (or “at-large”) and two councilors are elected to represent each of the three districts (East, Central, and West). All nine councilors have the same powers and obligations to approve the city budget, create, amend or do away with city ordinances and policies, and approve contracts with private vendors.

Because Methuen doesn’t always hold preliminary elections, The East and Central District councilors are all running unopposed. That means no matter what happens on election day Steve Saba, Eunice Zeigler, Jim McCarty, and Joel Faretra will be elected to serve two more



terms.
CHALLENGER TRY TO UNSEAT INCUMBENTS IN AT LARGE AND WEST DISTRICT RACES

In the city-wide (At-Large) city council race, all three incumbents are running for reelection with only one person challenging them on the November ballot, former Methuen City Councilor Joyce Campagnone.

Campagnone has served on the school committee and the city council several times prior to getting elected to represent the Central District on the council four years ago. Campagnone has been one of the biggest advocates for local veterans, raising money and volunteering for the VFW, the American Legion, and other veterans’ groups for more than four decades.

To win she has to unseat one of the three current city councilors.

Campagnone’s husband Stephen, a hero veteran passed away last month.

Our Condolences to the Campagnone family.

Hero Veteran Stephen Campagnone Passes Away

Stephen C. Campagnone, Sr. March 8, 1946 - September 29, 2021 Methuen - Stephen C. Campagnone, Sr., 75, of Methuen, MA, passed away September 29, 2021. Born in Lawrence, MA, he was the son of the late Anthony and Anna Marie (Borrelli) Campagnone.

A graduate of Lawrence High School, Stephen excelled in basketball. He was the team captain and one of the best players in the area.

Stephen served with the U.S. Army and retired from Parlex where he worked as a purchasing agent. He previously worked at Multicore and Honeywell and was a licensed barber.

A member of the Sons of Italy and Methuen Knights of Columbus, Stephen loved sports, golfing, playing cards, and volunteered his time as a referee for area basketball games.

Stephen is survived by his beloved wife, Joyce C. (Silva) Campagnone; his children, Dawn McKinney and her husband Robert of Lisbon, NH, Stephen

Campagnone, Jr. of Salem, NH, and Anthony Campagnone and his wife Shauna of Methuen; his sisters-in-law, Eleanor Thornhill and her husband Gene of Lawrence, Gen Burokas of Methuen; grandchildren, William and Julia McKinney, Stephanie, Makayla, Anthony, Jr. and Gianna Campagnone; and his great-grandchildren, Anthony and Harper. He also leaves nieces, nephews and cousins as well as his best four-legged buddy, his dog, Midnight.

Family and friends are respectfully invited to attend visiting hours on Wednesday, October 6, 2021, from 4 to 7 p.m. at Cataudella Funeral Home, 126 Pleasant Valley Street in Methuen. His funeral mass will be celebrated on Thursday, October 7, 2021 at 11 a.m. at St. Monica Church, 212 Lawrence Street in Methuen. Burial will be at the Immaculate Conception Cemetery, Lawrence. For directions or to send condolences, please visit www.cataudellafh.com. ♦

ELECTION DAY IS
NOVEMBER 2nd
MAKE SURE YOU VOTE!

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Accountability Needed in Division of Professional Licensure

Diana DiZoglio
MA STATE SENATOR

Hello Valley Patriot Readers,

The state Division of Professional Licensure (DPL) licenses and regulates more than 580,000 individuals, businesses, and schools to engage in over 150 trades and professions in Massachusetts, from plumbers and electricians to psychologists and optometrists. Its mission is supposed to be to protect the public through the establishment of a thorough licensing process, including criminal and sex offender background checks.

According to a recent investigation conducted by the State Auditor's Office, however, it is all too clear DPL has fallen woefully short in ensuring applicants are sufficiently vetted.

Based on both the audit and additional reporting by the Boston Globe, we now know of applicants who had the most serious of convictions and yet were cleared



by DPL's boards and commissions, including numerous sex offenders, a man convicted of stabbing someone to death and then running him over, and another individual who served seven years for attempted kidnapping and attempted murder.


According to the audit, DPL failed to perform criminal record checks on more than two-thirds

of applicants granted licenses. For nearly half of these applicants, there was also no indication of a sex offender record check. Both of these reviews are required under the law.

And this isn't a new issue. In 2019, following a Boston Globe investigation highlighting the lack of required checks, DPL claimed sex offenders were granted licenses due to technical glitches and that all would be resolved. But the Auditor's new investigation reveals these issues continued to persist moving forward.

While DPL has admitted to its failings

LICENSES: PAGE 9



Collaborative, transparent and supportive of the needs of residents

15 years of teaching & administrative leadership in Methuen

I am a 20-year veteran of the U.S. Air Force, retiring as a prior enlisted captain. I am a lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (past commander), Disabled American Veterans & American Legion. I hope to serve Methuen as honorably as I served our great nation.

VOTE NOVEMBER 2nd!

Mike Downs

Methuen City Council * West District

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT MIKE DOWNS

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A Country Girl with a Strong Patriotic Message

Singer/Song Writer Bella Perrotta

KANE
VALLEY PATRIOT MASCOT

In case you were wondering who was the vocalist at the Vigil and funeral honoring Sgt. Johanny Rosario Pichardo, well that was country girl Bella Perrotta. Each song was sung from her soul with a deep love and respect for our fallen heroes. Kane wants you to meet the young woman behind this captivating voice.

Bella Perrotta is a gifted musician, and the best part is her willingness to share her talent with friends, family, and community. Although Bella is 17 years old, her poise and presentation is consistent with a mature performer well into their adult years. Kane thought in dog years he is only a smidge younger than Bella, but she seems so much more grown up than him. In fact, Bella has performed in front of stadiums of people including the fans at the New England Revolution Soccer Game. Kane thought that would make him very nervous, but Bella feels honored to be able to respect her country and flag by singing the National Anthem, so she works through the jitters because the message of the Star-Spangled Banner is very important. Kane would agree, and he thinks Bella is very important. Imagine being her age and being willing to share important information with her peers and large groups of people.

Bella has often used her musical platform to show her respect and appreciation for our United States Military and Law Enforcement. In fact, Bella wrote and performed a song in 8th grade named “ I Salute You” to show appreciation for her school

resource officers. When Kane asked Bella about her passion for honoring law enforcement and military members she stated, “ my parents have brought me up to have great respect for police officers and the military.” Kane was curious if she felt this was common among her peers. Bella explained that by writing her song “ I salute you” she had the opportunity to bring the important work of law enforcement to light through her performance.

Kane first heard Bella perform at a Vigil in Lawrence, MA for Fallen Marine Sgt. Johanny Rosario Pichardo. Kane noticed Bella sings from her heart. She performed a flawless National Anthem, God Bless America, and Amazing Grace. She also sang patriotic country songs. When the announcer stated Bella was from Central Catholic, Kane wrongly assumed she was a faculty member, he was excited to learn she was a student. For the first time Kane wished he had hands to clap, sometimes it is hard to be a dog. He wanted Bella to know he enjoyed her singing. Bella explained to Kane that singing at Johanny’s vigil and her funeral was truly an honor. This was her way of thanking the marines and soldiers for their sacrifice.

Since Kane was curious how Bella learned to be such a talented artist, he asked how she got started, Bella explained that her mom said she was singing since she could walk. Performances started as early as middle school variety shows. Bella loved the way the crowd reacted and wanted to share her music with others. Besides her parents, Bella credits her voice coach Bernie Choiniere for her continued success. Bella stated “ Bernie shows me



a lot of support and encourages me to step outside my comfort zone. He truly believes in me.” Bella currently performs in Concert Choir, and in an Acapella Group at school. Bella also performs country music professionally at gigs and local restaurants including Michael’s Flatbread in Salem, NH. Since Bella is so busy with school her family helps with marketing and other aspects of her business.

So, what is next for Bella? Kane is pleased to report off to college for a career in music! Bella is exploring different music tracks including music

education, musical theater, and a Contract Music Artist track. A local school Bella is applying to is The Berklee College of Music. Kane thinks they would be thrilled to have such a talented trail blazer like Bella attend their school. Kane feels lucky he was able to meet Bella; she is truly an inspiration. He also felt a little shy since he never met a country music star before.

Kane says in a world full of negativity be an inspiration like Bella. Check out her Facebook page Bella Perrotta - Country Girl.

Woof Kane Peaslee ♦

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Merrimack Valley Hospice Teaches Grievers to Navigate Mealtime Solo

Lawrence - For those who are grieving, navigating new rhythms of grocery shopping, preparing meals and dining without a beloved partner can cause added daily distress.

Recognizing the deep connection between food and mourning, Merrimack Valley Hospice offers “Cooking and Eating for One” classes among its free, virtual support groups offered via the Zoom videoconferencing platform.

The series of three interactive workshops, taking place on Thursdays from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., will teach straightforward, healthy recipes with minimal ingredients: One Chicken Eight Meals on October 7; Roasted Butternut Squash Soup on November 4; and Very Gingery Gingerbread on December 2. Participants are invited to register for one, two or all three sessions.

Merrimack Valley Hospice’s support groups for adults, children, spouses/partners and individuals in the LGBTQ+ community who are grieving a death are free of charge and open to the public. To register and learn more, call 978-552-4510 or visit www.MerrimackValleyHospice.org.

About Merrimack Valley Hospice
Merrimack Valley Hospice is a not-for-profit agency providing comfort care and supportive services to patients nearing the end of life and bereavement services to their families and loved ones. Together with Home Health VNA, the agencies provide a full continuum of home health and hospice care in more than 110 communities throughout northeastern Massachusetts, southern New Hampshire and southern Maine as York Hospital Hospice. For more information, visit MerrimackValleyHospice.org. ♦

GLCAC Announces Food & Rental Assistance, Parenting Support Groups & New Live Show

The Greater Lawrence Community Action Council, Inc. is now accepting applications for food and rental assistance programs and is enrolling parents in two support groups. In addition, GLCAC will launch a new monthly show on Facebook Live to feature the services it offers and to answer viewer questions.

Sign Up for SNAP at GLCAC
The public is invited to seek help from GLCAC staff to sign up for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, also known as SNAP. Residents who qualify for MassHealth may also qualify for assistance paying for groceries.

GLCAC clients who qualify for SNAP may also qualify for free job training programs.

To apply for SNAP, contact Jessica Ramirez at jramirez@glcac.org or 978-620-4753. For more information about SNAP, visit www.DTAconnect.com.

Rent Assistance for Lawrence Residents
GLCAC is now taking applications for the COVID-10 Emergency Rental Assistance Program (CERAP). This program is for Lawrence residents who are behind on rent due to a loss of employment caused by the pandemic and meet income guidelines.

CERAP is funded by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, through the City of Lawrence, and administered by GLCAC’s Housing Assistance Program.

For more information, contact Krystina Kodinski at 978-620-4653 or kkodinski@glcac.org.

Parental Resiliency Classes Now Enrolling
The Michael B. Christensen Community and Family Support Center is hosting a free parental resiliency group. This program is designed to help parents develop their resiliency by identifying stressors and coming up with healthy ways to manage them.

This program is geared toward parents who are looking for ways to cope with every-day life, improve their interpersonal relationships and practice self-care.

This six-week program begins Thursday, Oct. 28 from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. and will be held over Zoom. Registration is required.

To register, contact Jessica Ramirez at jramirez@glcac.org or 978-620-4753.

Dedicated and Determined Dads Support Group
Are you a dedicated and determined dad looking for some support?
The Michael B. Christensen Community and Family Support Center is hosting a free support group just for dads.

This program is designed to help dads who have challenges co-parenting,

GLCAC : PAGE 27

LEGAL NOTICE MASS DOT

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING MEETING
Project File No. 608095

A Live Virtual 25% Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed Route 114 Corridor Improvements project in North Andover, MA.

WHEN: 7:00 - 8:30 PM; Thursday, October 28, 2021

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Route 114 Corridor Improvements project. All views and comments submitted in response to the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The proposed Route 114 corridor improvements project is a 2.2-mile roadway reconstruction between Waverly Road and Willow Street/Mill Road in North Andover. The project work mainly includes roadway widening, geometry and traffic signal improvements at project area intersections, continuous sidewalks and bicycle accommodations that are separated from vehicular traffic (via a shared use path) along the full length of the Route 114 corridor. In addition to roadway geometric improvements, seven existing traffic signals will be upgraded, and two additional intersections will become signal controlled (intersections of Route 114 at Royal Crest Drive/ Merrimack College and Hillside Road) for a total of 9 signalized intersections. Traffic signals within the project area will be interconnected and will utilize adaptive signal control which automatically adjusts signal operations to optimize traffic flow based on ‘real time’ vehicle demand data collected by the system. The project also includes a culvert replacement, drainage improvements, utility relocations and landscaping elements.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands. MassDOT’s policy concerning land acquisitions will be presented in the hearing.

Project inquiries, written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking may be submitted to Carrie E. Lavallee, P.E., Acting Chief Engineer, via e-mail to MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us or via US Mail to Suite 6340, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Project Management, Project File No. 608095. Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days after the hearing is posted to the MassDOT website listed below.

This hearing is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (e.g interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, live captioning, videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT’s Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), TTD/TTY at (857) 266-0603, fax (857) 368-0602 or by email (MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us). Requests should be made as soon as possible prior to the meeting, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten business days before the hearing.

This Live Virtual Design Public Hearing or a cancellation announcement will be hosted on the internet at www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings.

JONATHAN GULLIVER
CARRIE E. LAVALLEE, P.E.
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR
ACTING CHIEF ENGINEER

LICENSES: FROM 7

and is in the midst of an overhaul, including the hiring of new staff and creation of a new background checks unit, it is imperative they be held accountable and their corrective actions be done so in the most transparent of fashions. They can start by adopting the recommendations presented in the Auditor’s report that are designed to ensure the safety of Massachusetts residents, including more comprehensive background checks and the requiring of such checks upon license renewal, not just issuance.

The main tenet of professional licensing is, above all else, to protect the public. Massachusetts residents deserve a department that lives up to this basic standard.

If you have any questions on this or any other issue, please feel free to contact me anytime via email at [Diana. Dizoglio@masenate.gov](mailto:Dizoglio@masenate.gov) or phone at 978-984-7747.

Yours in service,
Diana ♦

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Deadline: Postmark/deliver by 11/29/21.

Information session live via Zoom on 10/13/21.
A recording of the information session will be available online at www.254Broadway.com throughout this process.

Lottery to be held virtually on 12/15/21. Additional details will be provided in advance of the Lottery.

Rents & Income Limits

| Type | # of Apts. | Rent | Income Limit | Minimum Income |
|------|------------|---------|--------------|----------------|
| 1BR | 11 | \$1,271 | 60% | \$38,130 |
| 1BR | 1 | ** | 30% | n/a |
| 2BR | 22 | \$1,525 | 60% | \$45,750 |
| 2BR | 2 | ** | 30% | n/a |
| 3BR | 3 | \$1,761 | 60% | \$52,800 |
| 3BR | 1 | ** | 30% | n/a |

Maximum Income

| #HH | 30% AMI | 60% AMI |
|-----|----------|----------|
| 1 | \$23,700 | \$47,460 |
| 2 | \$27,100 | \$54,240 |
| 3 | \$30,500 | \$61,020 |
| 4 | \$33,850 | \$67,740 |
| 5 | \$36,600 | \$73,200 |
| 6 | \$39,300 | \$78,600 |
| 7 | \$42,000 | \$84,000 |

***Rent determined by PHA based on income of applicant
-3 ADA mobility accessible & 1 sensory units

AMI - Area Median Income, as of 4/1/21. Income, asset, use & occupancy restrictions apply. Rents & income limits based on HUD guidelines. Income limits subject to change. For more info, language assistance, or reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, please call or email.

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For Mayor of Lawrence

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Mike Gagliardi

Local 175 Laborers' Union of North America

Lantigua Endorses Vasquez for Mayor of Lawrence



| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Kendrys Vasquez | 3,704 |
| <u>Brian Depena</u> | <u>3,247</u> |
| | |
| Vilma | 1,193 |
| Willie Lantigua da Chief | 781 |
| Doris Rodriguez | 99 |
| Write in | 35 |
| <u>Blank</u> | <u>25</u> |
| | 9084 |

After losing his fourth election in a row last month during the Lawrence Mayoral preliminary election, former Lawrence Mayor Willie Lantigua has broken his media silence and publicly endorsed Kendrys Vasquez.

This, despite the fact that Vasquez supporters have been spreading rumors through the campaign that Brian DePena was a “puppet for Lantigua” and that a vote for DePena was really a vote for Willie.

Lantigua, who placed fourth out of five candidates in the primary, made his endorsement announcement for Vasquez last week at a troubled nightclub called Attika before a crowd of his and Vasquez supporters.

ANATOMY OF A CAMPAIGN

Kendrys Vasquez was the District “C” City Councilor and council president when former Mayor Dan Rivera abandoned his post earlier this year to take a job working for Republican Governor Charlie Baker.

Rivera endorsed the Republican governor in the last state election.

Instead of holding a special election to fill Rivera’s seat, Vasquez and his colleagues on the Lawrence City Council decided to cancel a special election and take away the right of voters, only to appoint Vasquez as Acting Mayor until a new mayor can be elected on November 2nd.

Vasquez promised he would not run for reelection if appointed to the temporary position, but changed his mind after taking office announcing he would be seeking the city’s top spot for

the next four years.

In the primary, Mayor Rivera had recruited and publicly supported Vilma Lora Dominguez-Martinez before Vasquez got into the race. Both Vasquez and Dominguez were supporters of Rivera, splitting Rivera supporters into two camps and resulting in Vasquez beating Dominguez by a few thousand votes.

Now that Vasquez has knocked Vilma out of the race, Rivera has publicly given his support to Kendrys Vasquez, putting rivals Rivera and Lantigua on the same side for the first time since Lantigua was mayor in 2013.

“We always knew Lantigua was not going to support us,” DePena told the Valley Patriot. “A lot of people say he was supporting me but there is no room in city government for his influence. He will have no influence if I win in November. We have seen what he did to the city, dividing people, making people mistrust the government, we need to move forward and help everyone, not just one group or another group.”

Supporters of DePena say that they were furious when they heard Vasquez supporters trying to tie Lantigua to DePena prior to Lantigua’s announcement for Vasquez.

“At least now people know, we want nothing to do with him, Brian is no puppet for anybody much less the likes of Willie Lantigua,” said DePena supporter Jackie Marmol.

“If anything, it’s the other way around, a vote for Vasquez is a vote for Willie Lantigua. I don’t think the people of

Lawrence want to move backwards.”

ATTACKING FAMILY

The race for mayor of Lawrence has gotten so viscous in the last two weeks that the Kendrys Vasquez campaign is circulating a flier attacking DePena’s wife, ex-wife, and family members claiming they are illegal aliens and alleging DePena is somehow involved in immigration fraud.

Yet, it was Kendrys Vasquez marching on the Common each year on May 1st to protest for the “rights” of illegal aliens to stay in the country and not be deported. He also supports driver’s licenses for illegal aliens, public funding for illegals, and supports Lawrence being a “sanctuary city”.

Vasquez admitted on Facebook that his children’s first language is Spanish, their second and third languages are Chinese and Arabic and that he has no interest in teaching his kids to speak English.

LANTIGUA’S INFLUENCE

During his time as Mayor and State Representative Willie Lantigua was involved in so many scandals that he became one of the few mayors in Lawrence to lose a re-election.

First, Lantigua won the mayor’s race while he was a state representative and continued to collect two paychecks from the tax-payers to bolster his retirement.

Then Lantigua appealed to the state for a \$35M bail-out loan claiming that without the additional money to run the city he would have to lay off police and firefighters.

Senators and State Representatives said publicly that they would not approve the loan as long as Lantigua held both jobs, so Lantigua resigned as a state representative.

Despite his reasons for needing the loan, within days of receiving the bail-out Lantigua laid off 29 cops and 30 firefighters anyway leaving the city unprotected.

He then went to war with both the cops and firefighters, accusing Lawrence firefighters of slow response times to make him look bad, and even questioned publicly whether the firefighters were setting fires themselves.

He also accused Lawrence cops of trying to plant drugs in his car, illegally surveilling him, and targeting him for criminal prosecution.

Lantigua’s Chief of Staff eventually went to jail for corruption when an ambulance company was strong armed by the Lantigua administration into making “donations” of two ambulances filled with medical equipment to the Dominican Republic in exchange for an extension of their contract with the city.

Lantigua failed to disclose campaign donations on his campaign finance reports and was fined by the Office of Campaign and Political Finance. Lantigua was also fined for illegal donations and accepting donations that are not allowed under state law.

Many in Lawrence are now questioning whether or not Lantigua will be a prominent figure in the Vasquez administration if Kendrys wins a full, four-year term on November 2nd.

For his part, Vasquez seems to be embracing the endorsement from Lantigua and is not shying away from the controversial former mayor.

Whoever wins the mayoral election on November 2nd will take office the next day. ◇

LOCATION CHANGE



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in memory of Roger Twomey

11th Annual

Pancake Breakfast

Sunday November 7, 2021 8:30-11:30am

NEW LOCATION:

LAWRENCE ELKS LODGE, 682 Andover Street

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Stephany ★★★

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City Council

District E

VOTE ON NOVEMBER 2ND



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Sunday: 12noon - 9:30pm

Colorblind Is the Moral Ideal

Dennis Prager
SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

There is little that reveals the immorality and dishonesty of the left more than its labeling the term “colorblind” racist.

Here are just a few of countless examples:

The University of California publishes a list of “microaggressions” — terms and ideas it considers racist — that white people should avoid using. The list includes the term “colorblindness” as well as statements such as “there is only one race, the human race.”

The left’s racist war on colorblindness is everywhere.

Psychology Today published an article by a psychology professor titled, “Colorblind Ideology Is a Form of Racism.”

HuffPost published a piece titled, “How Colorblindness Is Actually Racist,” in which the author gives three examples of statements white people make that are racist:

“I am colorblind.”

“I see people, not color.”

“We are all the same.”

The Walt Disney Co. recommends that its white employees atone for their racism by “challeng(ing) colorblind ideologies and rhetoric” such as ... “I don’t see color.”

Even the U.S. Army got into the act. It sent an email to all personnel saying that the word “colorblind” is “evidence of white supremacy.” (The Army later withdrew the email after a congressman threatened a federal investigation.)

I could give dozens of other examples of the left’s Orwellian labelling of “colorblind” as “racist.”

Why Orwellian?

Because becoming colorblind is precisely what people opposed to racism should aspire to.

That is why Martin Luther King Jr.’s most famous quote, from his most famous speech, is: “I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.”

The left’s position is that Martin Luther King Jr. was wrong.

But it’s the left that’s wrong. The colorblind person is the very definition of a non-racist person.

Here’s one obvious proof: The worst racists — defenders of slavery, supporters of Jim Crow laws and the Ku Klux Klan, just to cite American examples — were the least colorblind people. Color is the one thing they and all racists see in people. Precisely because they defined people by their color, they justified their subjugation of black people.

Colorblind means one does not believe a person’s color is in any way significant.

Isn’t that the ideal? Shouldn’t we define a person by their heart, mind, personality and, as Martin Luther King Jr. said, above all, character? When people, of any color, look into a mirror, do they see color? No, they don’t. They see a human being. When a white person looks into a mirror, does he or



she think, “Look, a white person!”? When a black person looks into a mirror, does he or she think, “Look, a black person!”?

Of course not. When we look at ourselves, we see John, or Jessica, or Tameka, or Jose. We see ourselves — not color. Why isn’t that how we would want everyone else to see us?

The left’s insistence that color is important is one of the most racist and anti-human doctrines of our time. It was precisely when America was most racist that people’s color was deemed most important. Why would we want to return to that time?

Why is your skin color any more important than your hair color or, for that matter, the color of your shoes?

Name one important thing your color tells others about you. You can’t.

Does your color tell us if you’re kind, or smart, or what foods or music you like, or what you do for a living? Does it tell us anything about the most important thing about you — your values?

No. Your color tells us nothing about you.

So, why should anyone not be colorblind? To be colorblind means one ignores the least important thing about you. Isn’t that a good thing? And isn’t the opposite position — that your race is important — racist?

Those of us who regard the Bible as the greatest book ever written, as the greatest repository of wisdom, must be colorblind. The only thing the Bible tells us about the first human being, Adam, from whom we are all descended, is that he was created in God’s image. If the Bible placed any significance on race, wouldn’t it have told us Adam’s color?

That there were Christians who defended slavery on race grounds only proves that there were Christians who didn’t take the Bible seriously. Conversely, some Christians who did take the Bible seriously organized the first large-scale effort in world history to abolish slavery.

One final thought: Imagine that tomorrow every human being became blind. Would the world be more — or less — racist?

Dennis Prager is a nationally syndicated radio talk-show host and columnist. His latest book, published by Regnery in May 2019, is “The Rational Bible,” a commentary on the book of Genesis. His film, “No Safe Spaces,” was released to home entertainment nationwide on September 15, 2020. He is the founder of Prager University and may be contacted at dennisprager.com.



Methuen Village Celebrates National Assisted Living Week

METHUEN, MA -- Methuen Village went all out for this year’s National Assisted Living Week. The Assisted Living and Compass Memory Support Community located on Gleason Street used the occasion as an opportunity to show their appreciation to their dedicated team of associates, and to bring some fun to the community’s residents.

The week-long celebration included themed days with music, games, special treats, gifts, raffles and a catered lunch for associates from local favorite Benedetti’s Deli.

Methuen Village Assisted Living & Compass Memory Support is home to a close-knit community of seniors who engage in fun and educational activities, helping them to remain independent for as long as possible. With research-based programs like Brain Healthy Cooking and EnrichedLIFE, residents at Methuen Village are met with a host of options regarding how to spend each day. For more information, visit www.MethuenVillage.com.

GENEST: FROM PAGE 5

* Jennifer Cunningham of Plymouth, a paralegal specialist in the Executive Office of Public Safety for \$70,332

* Matt Sisk of Braintree, executive director of civil process at the Norfolk County Sheriff’s Office for \$92,500

What’s worse than voting against the resolution? Not voting at all.

Laurie Myers of Chelmsford, who makes \$125,000 as executive director of the Sex Offender Registry Board, abstained from the vote.

Likewise for Ryan Chamberland of Blackstone, deputy chief of staff in the Executive Office of Public Safety for \$96,390.

Ditto for Angela Davis of Foxborough,

an assistant in the Executive Office of Public Safety for \$130,000, who lost her position as MassGOP Secretary last year.

Did you elect your Republican State Committeeman and Committeewoman so they could avoid taking a stand?

It’s now well established: It’s time for some members of the party establishment to establish consistent standards when it comes to party rules, righteous indignation and their colleagues.

— *Brian Genest is a member of the Massachusetts Republican State Committee representing the Second Essex & Middlesex District of Andover, Dracut, Lawrence and Tewksbury.* ♦

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Illegal Alien Bladimir Sanchez Soto of Methuen Sentenced for Drug Charges and Misuse of a Social Security Number

BOSTON – A Dominican national was sentenced on Wednesday, Sept. 22, 2021 in federal court in Boston for conspiring to distribute more than 40 grams of fentanyl and misusing a Social Security number.

Bladimir Sanchez Soto, 29, formerly of Methuen, was sentenced by U.S. District Court Judge Leo T. Sorokin to 30 months in prison and three years of supervised release. Sanchez Soto will be subject to deportation proceedings upon completion of his sentence. On March 30, 2021, Sanchez Soto pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to distribute and to possess with intent to distribute 40 grams or more of fentanyl and one count of false representation of a Social Security number.

In November 2019 and January 2020, Sanchez Soto helped arrange four sales of approximately 65 grams of fentanyl. In February 2020, Sanchez Soto and a co-

defendant were arrested and additional fentanyl was seized. Sanchez Soto was previously indicted in the Western District of Michigan in connection with using a false name and Social Security number to obtain a Michigan driver’s license in November 2016. The matter was transferred to the District of Massachusetts for plea and sentencing.

Acting United States Attorney Nathaniel R. Mendell; United States Attorney Andrew B. Birge of the Western District of Michigan; Brian D. Boyle, Special Agent in Charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration, New England Field Division; and Vance Callender, Special Agent in Charge of Homeland Security Investigations in Detroit, made the announcement. Assistant U.S. Attorney Theodore B. Heinrich of Mendell’s Narcotics and Money Laundering Unit prosecuted the case. ♦

Father & Son Moving Company Fined for Selling Belongings of Deployed Air Force Sgt.

BOSTON – The U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Massachusetts announced an agreement today with PRTaylor Enterprises LLC, a company doing business as Father & Son Moving & Storage (Father & Son), to resolve allegations that it violated the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) by failing to obtain a court order before auctioning off the contents of a U.S. Air Force Technical Sergeant’s storage units while he was deployed overseas.

According to the complaint, the Technical Sergeant’s possessions sold by Father & Son included military gear and mementos that had belonged to a cousin killed in military action in Afghanistan, his grandfather’s military service medals and all of his household furnishings and personal photographs.

The SCRA provides financial and housing protections and benefits to military members while they are in military service. One of the SCRA’s protections requires anyone holding a lien on the property of a servicemember to obtain a court order prior to auctioning off, selling or otherwise disposing of that property. Under the agreement, Father & Son will pay the Technical Sergeant \$60,000 in damages and the United States a \$5,000 civil penalty. Father & Son must also implement certain new policies to prevent future SCRA violations.

“It is wrong to auction off the possessions of a servicemember who is serving our country overseas,” said Acting United States Attorney Nathaniel R. Mendell. “The law protects servicemembers from this kind of mistreatment – they have more important things to worry about when they are overseas risking their lives to protect our nation. We will enforce the rights of our military members aggressively and hold accountable people who violate the SCRA.”

“The Department of Justice is committed to vigorous enforcement of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to protect the rights of those individuals who

sacrifice so much for their country,” said Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clarke of the Justice Department’s Civil Rights Division. “This settlement should send a clear message to all storage facility operators that federal law prohibits them from auctioning off a servicemember’s possessions without a court order.”

Acting U.S. Attorney Mendell and AAG Clarke made the announcement today. Valuable assistance was also provided by the U.S. Department of Transportation, Office of Inspector General, Office of Investigations. Assistant U.S. Attorney Torey B. Cummings of Mendell’s Civil Rights Unit and Trial Attorney Tanya Kirwan of the Housing and Civil Enforcement Section of the Civil Rights Division handled the matter.

The Civil Rights Unit of the U.S. Attorney’s Office was established in 2016 with the mission of enhancing federal civil rights enforcement. For more information on the Office’s civil rights efforts, please visit www.justice.gov/usao-ma/civil-rights.

This lawsuit resulted from a referral to the Justice Department from the U.S. Air Force. The Department’s enforcement of the SCRA is conducted by the Civil Rights Division’s Housing and Civil Enforcement Section in partnership with the 93 U.S. Attorney’s Offices, including the District of Massachusetts. Since 2011, the Department has obtained over \$474 million in monetary relief for over 120,000 servicemembers through its enforcement of the SCRA. For more information about the Department’s SCRA enforcement efforts, please visit www.servicemembers.gov.

Servicemembers and their dependents who believe that their rights under the SCRA may have been violated should contact the nearest Armed Forces Legal Assistance Program Office. Office locations may be found at legalassistance.law.af.mil. ♦

Two Illegal Aliens Plead Guilty to Conspiring to Distribute Hundreds of Grams of Fentanyl in Lawrence

BOSTON – Two Dominican nationals previously residing in Lawrence pleaded guilty yesterday to conspiring to distribute hundreds of grams of fentanyl in Lawrence.

Jose Manuel Carmona-Mercedes, 32, and Gabriel Carmona-Pimentel, 36, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute 400 grams or more of fentanyl, distribution of fentanyl, and possession with intent to distribute 400 grams or more of fentanyl. U.S. Senior District Court Judge Rya W. Zobel scheduled sentencing for Jan. 12, 2022. The brothers were indicted in December 2020.

In late 2019, law enforcement identified Carmona-Mercedes and Carmona-Pimentel as large-scale fentanyl dealers operating in Lawrence. On four occasions in January and February 2020, an undercover officer ordered fentanyl from Carmona-Mercedes. After the undercover officer ordered a quantity of fentanyl and negotiated the price, Carmona-Pimentel or Carmona-Mercedes, or both, would deliver the fentanyl to the undercover officer from a base of operations on Lexington Street in Lawrence.

On Feb. 25, 2020, after Carmona-Pimentel delivered 220 grams of fentanyl to the undercover officer, Carmona-Mercedes and Carmona-Pimentel were arrested.

A search of the Lexington Street

location resulted in the seizure of 850 grams of fentanyl, 300 grams of cutting agents, documents in Carmona-Mercedes and Carmona-Pimentel’s names, plastic baggies commonly used to package drugs for street-level sales, blenders, suspected cut and digital scales.

The charge of conspiracy to distribute and possession with intent to distribute 400 grams or more of fentanyl provides for a sentence of at least 10 years and up to life in prison, at least five years of supervised release and a fine of up to \$10 million.

The charge of distribution of fentanyl provides for a sentence of up to 20 years in prison, at least three years of supervised release and a fine of up to \$1 million. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based on the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

Acting United States Attorney Nathaniel R. Mendell; Joseph R. Bonavolonta, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigations, Boston Division; Colonel Christopher Mason, Superintendent of the Massachusetts State Police; Lawrence Police Chief Roy Vasque; and Essex County District Attorney Jonathan W. Blodgett made the announcement. Assistant U.S. Attorney Christopher Pohl of Mendell’s Narcotics & Money Laundering Unit is prosecuting the case. ♦

Illegal Alien Joel Cortorreal from Methuen Sentenced to 15+ Years in Prison for Fentanyl Trafficking

BOSTON – A Dominican national was sentenced today in federal court in Boston for fentanyl trafficking in connection with the seizure of approximately 20 kilograms of heroin and 10 kilos of fentanyl. A firearm and \$20,000 were also recovered.

Joel Cortorreal, a/k/a Angel Javier Morell-Oneill, 33, a Dominican national previously residing in Methuen, was sentenced by U.S. District Court Judge Leo T. Sorokin to 186 months in prison and five years of supervised release. Cortorreal will face deportation proceedings upon completion of his sentence.

On April 29, 2021, Cortorreal pleaded guilty to one count of possession with intent to distribute 400 grams or more of fentanyl, one count of possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime, one count of unlawful reentry of a deported alien and one count of being an illegal alien in possession of a firearm and ammunition.

During a traffic stop in October 2018 in

Methuen, officers seized two kilograms of fentanyl from the front passenger seat of the Cortorreal’s vehicle. A subsequent search of Cortorreal’s residence resulted in the seizure of approximately 20 kilos of heroin, over eight kilos of fentanyl, drug distribution paraphernalia and a loaded firearm.

Acting United States Attorney Nathaniel R. Mendell; Brian D. Boyle, Special Agent in Charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration, New England Field Division; and Colonel Christopher Mason, Superintendent of the Massachusetts State Police made the announcement today.

Valuable assistance was provided by the Somerville, Medford, Boston, Ipswich and Arlington Police Departments. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Katherine Ferguson and Nadine Pellegrini of Mendell’s Narcotics and Money Laundering Unit prosecuted the case. ♦

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~ Mike Gagliardi, Local 175 Laborers' Union of North America

HERO: FROM PAGE 1

off the beaten path, outside of the tourist areas, and bought “a round of drinks” for the locals. In this hole in the wall pub, he noticed that the local women were not allowed by either law or custom, to sit at the bar. All the young, (and old) ladies in the pub sat at tables throughout, but never at the bar itself. He recalls walking the main streets of Christ Church, and seeing people watching televisions through store windows. Arthur recalled seeing people do the same on Essex Street in Lawrence during his youth.

While on Antarctica, one of the many pieces of construction equipment Arthur operated was the Peter Snow Miller. The Peter Snow Miller was used to dig tunnels for the construction of the new Byrd Station, during Operation Deep Freeze in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Arthur and the Seabees were trained in using the Peter Snow Miller, in Alaska, prior to being sent to Antarctica, the machine was essentially a Swiss snowplow originally used to clear roads in the Alps. Arthur and the Seabees went to work and used the machine to process the snow and work it up to the firmness necessary to support building construction on Antarctica. This machine also did double-duty, used by the Seabees in cutting a trench for utility and sewage lines.

Arthur’s Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Twenty-Seven detachment was based at the US Military Reserve Center in Lawrence, now the site of Lawrence High School in South Lawrence. He remembers vividly, lining up with hundreds of reservists, from all branches of the US Military, to search woods surrounding the center for a Lawrence youth, Andy Puglisi, who disappeared from the public pool that was located behind the Reserve Center on August 21, 1976. Arthur recalled that Andy’s dad was a reservist himself.

While serving in the US Navy Reserves, Arthur also worked as a motor grader operator and dump truck driver for LD Boddy, where he built roads into the Bellevue Cemetery and worked on the construction of Route 495, part of the Eisenhower Interstate System. Later in his career, he worked as a switcher operator at Malden Mills, moving trailers throughout the complex. A very young eighty-two years old, Arthur is still active in the local Veterans community, Arthur and a fellow US Navy Seabee from Dracut, Massachusetts, Bob Berube, often attend “mini-reunions” of the servicemen who served in Antarctica together.



He fondly remembers the vibrant French-Canadian culture that existed in Lawrence during the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s. A culture based at St Ann’s and Sacred Heart Churches, with culture events at the French Social Club, the Franco-American Veterans Post, and the LaSalle Club. Arthur and his wife Irene have been married fifty-six years, getting married at Irene’s mostly Irish St. Mary’s Church. The couple has a son and a daughter, both of which attended Lawrence High and played in the school band. Irene and Arthur now have four grandchildren.

Arthur dedicated thirty years of his life to service to our Nation, in the US Navy Seabees, and fifty-six years (and counting) to his wife and family, truly making him, a “hero in our midst”.

The Dracut American Legion asks all World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War Veterans, to call (603) 518-5368 and sign up for an Honor Flight to the Memorials in Washington DC! Veterans of all eras are asked to go the American Legion’s Web site www.legion.org, and join the American Legion, preserving our Veteran’s Benefits for future generations.

John Cuddy served in the US Navy’s Construction Battalions (also known as the Seabees) after retiring from the US Navy; he earned a bachelor’s in history and a master’s in economics from the University of Massachusetts on the Lowell Campus. He has been employed in Logistics at FedEx for the last 25 years. If you know a World War II, Korean War, or Vietnam War Veteran who would like their story told, please email him at John.Cuddy@Yahoo.com.



THE DOCTOR IS IN!

Back Pain

Dr. Pierre Ghassibi
VALLEY PATRIOT MEDICAL COLUMNIST

Greetings all.
Here is my way of looking at back pain, a very common ailment:
We call the back pain that many people get after lifting a heavy object MUSCULOSKELETAL back pain. It is very common. It is a sprain, often of the muscles, ligaments and bones of the lower back. Because the Sciatic nerve originates between the vertebrae of the lower spine and travels down the leg, it can get pinched when the bones move in the sprained back, it gets inflamed and causes pain radiating to the posterior thigh and leg.

Other rare causes of back pain are infections, cancer and autoimmune conditions like Psoriasis and Ankylosing Spondylitis.

Because we know what happens in “musculoskeletal” back pain, MRI studies do not add any information; this is why insurance companies do not cover the MRI unless there is suspicion of Cancer or infection ...

Back pain is very painful and pain killers only partly help. Pain patches are less effective. We use pain killers, physical therapy, chiropractic manipulations, Acupuncture for help. Just doing nothing can also help because in the majority of cases, back sprain goes away after a few to many weeks.

The white blood cells of the body are tiny repair agents that go to the sprained and injured areas and do their handy man job. The problem that is of concern is that the back pain happens again weeks to months later or it never goes away, and the reason is our fault: we

do daily movements that prevent healing or cause recurrence. Let me explain my way of seeing this:
Take a stick of wood or any material and try to break it WITHOUT bending it. There is no way!

To break a stick, we have to bend it to an extent that snaps it.
The stick is the spine, our back. Any heavy object we lift while BENDING breaks a few fibers of muscle or ligament. A very heavy weight causes a big break with immediate pain, while lesser objects cause smaller muscle fiber breaks that accumulate over time and one day the muscle or the ligament snaps.
I still see people bending over to lift a heavy box. The way to prevent back sprain is to lift while keeping the back, the spine, vertical. Straight is not enough, it has to remain vertical. Therefore, squat, stick the heavy object to your pelvis (on your center of gravity) and lift it by standing up
as if the object and you are a single entity. No space should exist between your body and the object being lifted. This is the main secret of a pain free lower back.

To repeat, low back pain is ubiquitous and the treatments we doctors give only hide the pain. It is time that heals if we avoid injuring and reinjuring our back on a daily basis. Of course, being strong and having strong muscles and a strong core is also useful. Being fit not only helps prevent many back pains, but also helps against arthritis, dementia, heart attacks, stroke and cancer. Too much sitting is as bad as smoking ...

Surgery in my opinion is only considered in musculoskeletal back pain if the pinched nerve is so damaged that there is paralysis in the leg or foot. There are rare exceptions to everything and we should follow our doctor’s recommendations.

Let me end by saying that I see at the gym and at moving companies people using back braces for protection. A back brace is maybe useful as long as people do not trust it too much. It helps very little.
Pierre Ghassibi, MD
ghassibi@hotmail.com ◇

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Veteran Mike Downs Campaigns for West End Council Seat

Hero veteran Michael Downs has thrown his hat into the race for city council in Methuen’s West End.

With both incumbents seeking reelection for a second term, Downs would have to unseat one of them on November 2nd to take a seat on the Methuen City Council.

Downs is a former principal in the Methuen Public Schools, served in the Air Force, and is now a principal in Everett.

He appeared on the Paying Attention! podcast last month with Tom Duggan and discussed his candidacy.

“I’ve spent 15 years in Methuen dedicated 15 years of my life improving the high school, I was there for the building project, ran the grade 9 campus for three years, and those three years were the most successful. The data is there to prove it.

Asked why he is running against two incumbents in the West End race instead of running for an open seat, Downs said that he wasn’t running against any of the incumbents but was simply running for the job.

“I have a lot of life experience,” he said. “I have a lot of experience with municipal budgets because of my experience at the administrative level at the schools. I spent 20+ years in military I was in the Air Force. . I was an enlisted person, and I started at the bottom as an E1, worked my way up to an E7 and then I got my commission and became an officer. Now I am a retired captain.”

Downs has been retired from the Air Force for about ten years and says what he misses the most are “the guys and the mission.”

Asked if he watches the city council meetings and what he thinks of the personal attacks launched from the council table, Downs says that is not how



he is going to conduct himself if he wins.

“Watching the city council meetings actually made me want to run. This is a great city, I love Methuen. I love the diversity. When you work in the city, and you have a lot of friends who live in the city, own houses in the city, do we really want to be in the news for bad things anymore?”

“There are times when (the councilors) disagree with each other. I’m not going to do that in public. If you don’t agree with me on something and you want to berate me on TV you can do that, but I’m going to wait till we’re off air then I’m going to tell you how I feel. When you start arguing on TV and you start demeaning each other that’s not good for the city; it’s not good for anybody.

Downs says that he isn’t going to make promises he can’t keep.

“If I say I’m going to do something and then I get in and find out I can’t do it, that doesn’t help anyone. I’m not going to make a commitment and then break it. I just want to make sure we do the best

we can do for the city. I don’t want to be in the news for bad things anymore.”

“If I do get on the city council the one thing that I want to promise is that if there’s a contract that has to be approved, I want to make sure I know what I’m voting on. I don’t want to cost the hard-working people of this city money because I didn’t read something thoroughly.

Downs says that he believes Mayor Perry has done a good job running the city so far but says he doesn’t know him personally and would have a hard time criticizing him “because I’ve never been in that position. I do look forward to working with him.”

METHUEN SCHOOLS

Being in education Downs says that his experience will help the city council when dealing with the school department budget. “I know how school budgets work and as a city council our job is not to approve the school budget. Our job is to oversee it, and if I don’t like the stuff that’s going on there, then that’s

my responsibility to say ‘no’ or cut this much. We have to start saying ‘this is the budget you get.’ I know for a fact after my time in the school system that there are jobs and expenditures that maybe we should use that money for other things.”

One thing I’d like to focus more on the schools is our capital improvements. Our K-8 schools are almost 30 years old now. When was the last time there were major upgrades to those schools?”

He said that there are jobs that are not needed in the schools, and he would focus on that.

“My job will be to make sure people’s taxes don’t go out of control and try to find a way - instead of budgeting for positions that do not impact instruction - let’s put that money into capital improvements. It’s nice to have positions that make us all feel good about what’s going on, but they don’t impact instruction and don’t reduce class size.

The election in Methuen is November 2nd. ◇




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Campagnone**

METHUEN
City Council At-Large

Property Sales, Foreclosures for SEPTEMBER, 2021 in Andover, Lawrence, Methuen, North Andover. (All properties are listed in order; seller, buyer, price, address.)



Northern Essex Registry of Deeds
M. Paul Iannuccillo, Register

William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth
of Massachusetts

ANDOVER

Pulte Homes of New England LLC,
James D Byrne Jr & Joanne Byrne,
\$501,845, 4 Francis Dr Unit 206
Kathleen M Conley Tr & Kathleen
M Conley Family Trust-2008, S & R
Construction Concepts Inc, \$400,000, 123
Andover St.
Paul Edward Hunter, John J Bertorelli &
Elizabeth J Haines, \$925,000, 10 Hammond
Wy
John J Bertorelli, Joshua T & Ellen E
Thornton, \$650,000, 213 Greenwood Rd
Knut St. urmhoefel & Susanne Hiller-
Sturmhoefel, Adam L Hooker, \$615,000, 77
Carmel Rd
Sankar Ardhanari, Shameek Gupta &
Sonali Ghosal, \$1,171,000, 29 St. irling St.
Richard Jeffrey Raymond Tr & Beth
C Haskell Tr & Fox Hill 8 Realty Trust,
Daniel Hartshorn & Erika Moran, \$572,810,
8 Fox Hill Rd
Sandra L & Andrew John McCarthy,
D Germano Construction Services LLC,
\$375,000, 17 Chester St.
Mark William Downey Tr & Mark
William Downey Revocable Trust, Franco
Albano, \$370,000, 600 Brookside Dr Unit F
Suzanne M Labrecque Tr & Joseph Louis
Labrecque Tr & Labrecque Family Trust,
Abhishek Pandey, \$654,000, 35 McKenney
Cir
Catherine Russell , Genevieve Auditore,
\$230,000, 2 Colonial Dr Unit 11B
Sattwik Gavli & Sumedha Singla, Zhibo
Zhao & Jing Bai, \$1,150,000, 37 Fleming
Ave
Natasha Ahmed Tr & NSS Three Sisters
Realty Trust, John & Jie Cortese, \$158,000,
30B Colonial Dr Unit 3
John S & Carol Ann Dehne, Himanshu
Yadav & Navjot Saini, \$890,000, 21
Bateson Dr
Gerald F & Mary Jo Gustus, Colleen T
Shannon & Nicholas A Gentile, \$625,000,
5 Fern Rd
Kristen Myers and Scott Smith, PD
Building LLC, \$422,375, 7 Pettingell Ave
PP Andover Investors LLC, River Rd Fee
Owner LLC, \$41,500,000, 460 River Rd.
Gail and Mark Feigenbaum, Elizabeth &
Nakul Bende, \$811,000, 480 Lowell St.
Mark Obryan, Mark & Gabrielle Obrien,
\$715,000, 2 Avella Cir
Clare Doyle and Clare Doyle Revocable
Trust, Xuezheng & Xuejin Wang, \$485,000,
170 Haverhill St. Unit 132
Adrian and Lori Hodge, Scott Huffer
Living Trust, Scott Huffer & Cathernine
Johnson, \$1,595,000, 8 Timothy Dr
Mark Zuckerman, Zuckerman 2105 Trust,
Lori Hunt 2015 Family Trust and Lori Hunt,
Maureen Cartier, \$1,425,000, 27 Crenshaw
Lane Unit 15-1
Christine Baldwin, Brian & Erin Charron,
\$869,900, 36 Summer St.
Joseph Ogrodowczyk, Conrado & Aileen
Suriaga, \$812,000, 92 Andover St.
Janet Pratt, Timothy & Brittany Patterson,
\$852,000, 14 Woodhaven Dr
Norman and Paul Hunt, Corey Colbert,
\$515,000, 3 Charlotte Dr
Barbarah E McGovern Revocable Trust
and Debra Parsons, Gregory & Kathryn
Long, \$450,000, 42 York St.
Gregory and Susan Welch, St. ephen &
Nina Foote, \$450,000, 4 McKenney Cir
Peter E Ford & Ford Family Irrevocable
Trust, Connector LLC, \$3,800,000, 2
Connector Rd
Judith Fenyk-Melody & David Paul
Melody & Judith Fenyk-Melody Revocable
Trust & Paul Melody Revocable Trust ,
Toufic Saad & Nicole Sleiman, \$2,000,000,
298 South Main St.

Lesley and Craig Gibson, Thomas
Kowski, \$880,000, 17 Brookfield Rd
Alexandra Dedoglou, Jason & Maria
Gage, \$750,000, 675 Foster St.
Rayna Zacks & Bryan Licciardi, Gerald
& Liliya Kramer, \$1,100,000, 12 Abbott
Bridge Dr
Susan Lourie, Jose & Wanda Cabrera,
\$490,000, 198 Chandler Rd
Julie Davis, John Tombarelli & TMH
Properties LLC, \$400,000, 379 North Main
St.
GCP Andover LLC, 300 600 Federal
Holdings LLC, \$28,350,000, 300 & 600
Federal St. Unit 1
Andrea & Hercilio Correa, Christopher
Leduc & Marianna St. rait, \$1,335,000, 200
Greenwood Rd
Nielsen- Jensen Tr & Henrik Jensen Tr &
Astrid Nielsen Tr, Wesley & Kathryn Davis,
\$850,000, 4 Delphi Cir
C Pulte Homes of New England, Robert
and Marie Dziadosz, \$494,995, 1 Francis Dr
Unit 106
Scott & Erica Nichols, Carisue Proctor-
Bench, \$1,051,000, 26 Rock O Dundee Rd
Poorna Mutnuri & Sireesha Pendyala,
Tirupathi Gopaladsu & Aruna Mamidi,
\$583,000, 22 Compass Point Unit N4
Barry & Mary Kelleher, Joseph &
Elisabeth Lonie, \$1,230,000, 16 Hidden Rd
John & Sarah Matson, Andrew & Rice
Husbands, \$1,125,000, 23 William St.
Gordon & Rosemarie Wetmore ,
Elizabeth & Thomas Burdett, \$894,000, 7
Delphi Cir
Vivichana Dixit & Jagdish Tewari,
Nabhiraj Jain & Fnu Ramya, \$965,000, 4
Gina Jo Way
Aaron Grover, Toby & Caroline Cohen,
\$775,000, 17 Lowell St.
Scott Huffer Living Tr & Scott Huffer Tr
& Catherine Johnson Tr, Robert & Anjelica
Donnelly, \$775,000, 27 Florence St.
Steven Garten, Hong Xiang & Jianjiang
Lu, \$700,000, 16 Clark Rd
Brian Cuscia, Eliot Shaw LLC, \$411,000,
1401 Great Pond Rd Unit 5
Fran Camaj, Daniel Boland, \$258,000,
354 North Main St.
Brittany and Shannon Mahoney Rafferty,
Chelsea Bain, \$420,000, 28 Cuba St.
Elaine K Foote Revocable Tr & Elaine
Foote Tr, 84 Andover St. LLC, \$565,000,
117 Ballardvale Rd
Joy Case, Bismark Vargas & Carla
Salvador, \$866,200, 3 Pepperidge Cir
Maragaret Latorre, Suzanne & Paul
Macero, \$725,000, 17 St. rawberry Hill Rd
Jason Sanchez, Matthew Sullivan &
Noorelle Varoqua, \$589,900, 24 Marland
St. .

LAWRENCE

Rentprop LLC, ARG Ar16pck001 LLC,
\$1,202,884, 48 Essex St.
Arlenny Y Gutierrez, JC & BO LLC,
\$950,000, 473 Haverhill St.
Carlos R Perez Tr & Perez Realty Trust,
JMA Real Estate LLC, \$900,000, 152-158
South Union St.
Elvyn Alamo, Frederick Rafael Cuello
Duran & Eva Reynoso, \$630,000, 33-35
Wesley St.
Progreso LLC, Long Dang & Tuyet A
Ngo, \$490,000, 46 Beacon St.
Denise A Ceballos, Henry Augusto
Estevez Jimenez & Yessenia A Trinidad
Ferreira, \$450,000, 195 High St.
Rosalie Munoz, Andres Ortiz & Mabel
Munoz, \$405,000, 42 High St.
Arrowpoint Howard LLC & AJR
Investments LLC, Scott R Sirota Tr &
SMS Twelve Realty Trust, \$2,010,000, 120
Howard St.
Cesar J Gil/Cesar J Gil-Puerie, Joel

Alvarado De La Cruz & Anthony E Medina,
\$490,000, 548-550 Hampshire St.
Leandro & Edgar Troncoso, Paul & Ada
Geggis, \$400,000, 10 Swan St.
Kerry Martin Tr & Kermar Realty Trust,
124 Abbott St. reet LLC, \$320,000, 124
Abbot St.
Disraeli Abreu, Zoe Larsen, \$180,000, 19
Bellevue St. Unit MH4
Fulton St. reet Corp, Rayprogress LLC,
\$1,050,000, 264 Lowell St.
Dawn Marie & Mark J Harris, Domby A
Toribio & Arlyne B Pena, \$753,000, 25-27
Ferguson St.
Francisa V Ynoa , Mercedes Almanzar &
Christopher Urena, \$385,000, 639 Haverhill
St.
Bochu LLC, NEP 18 LLC, \$20,000,000,
485 & 513A South Union St.
Luis A & Analcis A Castillo, Raquel
Gomez De Gutierrez & Franklin Gutierrez
& Jordyn F Lantigua, \$475,000, 14 Barnard
Rd
Jennifer E Benitez & Rafael De Jesus
, Elvin Manuel Hidalgo-Mejia & Jomary
Vega De Hidalgo, \$310,000, 5 Bromfield
St. Unit A
Kaushik D Patel Tr & Shiv Realty Trust,
GMA LLC, \$915,000, 304 Jackson St.
Leo J Lamontagne Jr Tr & Edna I
McGovern Irrevocable Trust & Michael
Gervais Tr & Albert & Lorraine Gervais
Irrevocable Trust, Sixtos Castanos & Paula
Rodriguez, \$407,250, 17 James St.
Adele Dillon 2017 Trust & William
A Linnehan Tr, Melissa Caceres LLC,
\$350,000, 6 Bennett St.
Lorraine Shirley Gervais Est & Michael
Gervais, Sixtos Castanos & Paula
Rodriguez, \$42,750, 17 James St.
Roper Investment Group LLC, Naiana
Goncalves Campos, \$675,000, 228-230
Water St.
Flaubert Yasil Perez & St. ephanie Adela
Perez, Flaubert Yasil Perez, \$40,000, 2
Roberta Ln
Leandra Contreras, Humberto Echeverria
& Mariela Lopez, \$330,000, 21-23
Bromfield St.
Juan Pimentel, Yahayra and Reny
Almonte and Daniela Vasquez, \$610,000,
10-12 McKinley Ave
Josue Garcia, Marvin Lopez & Dolores
Lopez, \$530,000, 69 Fern St.
Michael and Katherine Medina, Jackeline
Torres & Luis Caraballo, \$420,000, 655
Mount Vernon St.
Adalgisa Fernandez and Raysa Pepin,
Paula Hernandez, \$380,000, 81 East
Haverhill St.
Elie N. Hajar, John Paul Tarshi, \$100,000,
4 Ridge Rd
Vladimir Cepeda, Rosalba Santana and
Janiar Hidalgo, \$700,000, 147-151 Farnham
St.
Norma Guevara, Rocio Taveras,
\$360,000, 64 Nesmith St.
Marilyn Alvarez, Silvia Rodriguez,
\$275,000, 20 Orchard St.
JLH and Smith LLC, Julian Perez,
\$200,000, 233 Jackson St.
Ram Gupta, Fidel & Kimberly Guevara,
\$412,000, 22 Chardon St.
Sacc Realty LLC, Annie Chen, \$348,000,
383 Salem St.
467-477 Broadway St. LLC, 25 Water
LLC, \$749,000, 25 Water St.
James Kater , Juan Avila, \$325,000, 41
Shaw St.
Paule Aimable, Jorge Polanco, \$140,000,
274 E Haverhill St.
Vanessa Ruiz, Juan and Natalie
Rodriguez, \$225,000, 44 Loring St.
Charles Koza and Charles Koza Tr,
Natalie DeJesus, \$455,000, 1 Marc Ln
Jose Dominguez, Manuel Diaz, \$335,000,

297 Water St.
Maximo Pita, Geidy Pinto, \$215,000, 3
Forest St. . Unit 2
Greater Boston Baptist Association ,
Iglesia Bautistat Casa De Restauracion,
\$25,000, 5 Green St.
Ingres Vasquez, Victor Francisco Est,
Serapio DeJesus, \$700,000, 262 East
Haverhill St.
3JO Property Management Inc, Catalino
Gonzalez & Ashley Delacruz, \$320,000, 38
Kenneth St.
Joselito Rodriguez, Abdul Rodriguez &
Maria Perez, \$480,000, 139 Union St.
Cesar Aquino, Edwin Morales & Edwin
Santos, \$580,000, 60-62 Floral St.
C Daher Group Inc, Oscar Fuentes,
\$820,000, 20 Acton St.
Nancy Gordon, Lisbeth Valdez
Maldonado & Andres Almonte, \$605,000,
37-39 Bellevue St.
Alexandro & Alejandro Torres, Raymond
Gonzalez & Diana Campana, \$700,000, 168
Jackson St.
C Daher Group Inc, Carlos Peguero &
Ricardo Frias, \$630,000, 6-8 Sanborn St.
Ramon Reyes, Victor Mejia & Lesbia
Duran, \$590,000, 9-11 Pleasant Ter
Jaresmildania & Fausto Mendoza &
Jaresmildania Taveras, Wilma Santiago-
Arroyo & Raul Garcia, \$450,000, 73 Ferry
St.
Rafael Delacruz & Alba Santiago, Ramon
Valerio, \$620,000, 412-414 High St.
Hector & Claribel Almonte, Ingrid Pena-
Medina, \$555,000, 21 Hamilton St.
Sarah Mugisa, Miledy Desantos & Pablo
Santos, \$550,000, 154-156 Saratoga St.
Clement & Diane Cote, Johanna Llibre-
Cruz & Ramire Santiago, \$480,000, 21
Barnard Rd
Jose Rodriguez- Rentas , Pedro Rodriguez
& Solanlly Lugo & Carmen Munoz,
\$635,000, 258-260 Bailey St.
Teresa Fleming, Elmer Estrada, \$486,000,
3 Fallon St.
3 Crestshire Dr Nominee Tr & Ronald
& Janet Bourgea Tr, Wanda Pimentel,
\$440,000, 3 Crestshire Dr
Sunnybrook Development Inc, Micheles
Salazar, \$284,911, 11 Packard St. Unit 11
Donald Campbell, Lenin Perez-Clase &
Jaime Fernandez- Dones, \$645,000, 44 Fern
St.
Claudia Beck, Jalissa Thomas, \$630,000,
31 Emmett St.
Maria Finochiaro , Juana Reyes,
\$600,000, 44 Montgomery St.
Ian & Jillian Carraher, Anyelin &
Mayelin Medina & Alejandro Esquea,
\$545,000, 1-3 North Boylston St.
Mercis De Diaz & Fulvio Diaz, Nazario
Monegro & Marielba Alvarez, \$540,000,
119-119A Chester St.
Angel Velez & Luz Urena, Joan
Rodriguez & Erika Reyes, \$525,000,
61A-61B Brookfield St.
Antonio Aabala, Emelinda & Maria
Taveras, \$500,000, 52 W Kenneth St.
Li Wu & Pengfei Huang, Kirssi Gonzalez,
\$500,000, 28 Crestwood Cir
Doreen Lemieux, Andrew Graham &
Fara Dolcius, \$405,000, 265 Cypress Ave
Lawrence Henry Realty Trust & Debra
Yorke Tr, Edgar Cermeno, \$400,000, 4-4C
Winthrop Ave
Mary Griffin, Darmin Then, \$390,000, 23
Shaw St.
Matthew & Taxiarchoula Batchelder,
Jeuris Polanco, \$370,000, 115 Prospect St.
Unit 4
Paul Pena-Bourdierd & Emmy Ferran,
Ana Martinez, \$370,000, 38 Abbott St.
Shannon & Kevin Lapointe, Rachida
Sabir, \$350,000, 15 Mccarthy Rd

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TV TALK with BILL CUSHING



‘Only Murders In The Building’

Bill Cushing
VALLEY PATRIOT TV COLUMNIST

Mystery, intrigue, and lots of laughs are abound in Hulu’s delightful new series ‘Only Murders in the Building.’ Steve Martin, Martin Short, and Selena Gomez star as three neighbors who live in a ritzy apartment building on NY’s Upper West Side and become tangled up in a murder mystery.

Charles (Martin) is an aging actor, and his history as a famed TV detective comes in handy. He hesitantly becomes acquaintances with Oliver (Short), a cash-strapped theater director, when the two are forced to evacuate their building because one of the other residents has been found dead. They meet up with a mysterious and much younger neighbor, Mabel (Gomez), and the three of them bond over dinner and their love of a popular true crime podcast.

They soon find out that the death in their building has been ruled a suicide. Charles, Oliver, and Mabel all have their own reasons for questioning the police’s findings, just as the detective on the case has her reasons for telling them to stay out of it. She’s sick of true-crime obsessed fans trying to turn everything into the case of the moment. That doesn’t stop Charles, Mabel, and Oliver from devising an elaborate plan to not only crack the case but to turn their attempts to do so into a true-crime podcast named ‘Only Murders in the Building.’ It’s a simple premise, but the writers and cast turn it into a clever and addictive comedy-mystery.

Steve Martin and Martin Short are magical together, hilariously hurling insults back and forth throughout the series, and as long-time real-life friends they’re completely in tune with each other’s comedic sensibilities and timing. Selena Gomez is positively charming as Mabel, playing her role with a witty and sarcastic edge. The generation gap between her and her older counterparts is played for plenty of laughs too. Many

of the show’s biggest twists lean on what Mabel may or may not be hiding, and Gomez layers multiple meanings in Mabel’s dialogue to keep her neighbors, and us, on their toes.

Even the supporting roles are well-written and cast. Tina Fey as a superstar podcaster the three admire, Nathan Lane as a deli king and sponsor of Oliver’s theatrical ventures, and Sting as.... Sting. Amy Ryan also has a substantial role as a bassoonist who lives in the building and whose practicing makes Charles happy. Da’Vine Joy Randolph is the police detective eventually drawn into the adventure along with us.

The show knows how to balance its quirkiness with some heavy emotional moments. As it progresses and we meet more of the residents, it becomes a rich, complex analysis of all the different people who live under the same roof, and it gives us some of its most important information in silence by presenting a very clever episode entirely without a spoken word until the last seconds.

It also delivers a compelling murder mystery that leaves us with more questions than answers as you make your way from episode to episode, making you want to catch that next episode as soon as possible.

All of this make ‘Only Murders In The Building’ a thoroughly enjoyable watch.

‘Only Murders In The Building’ has already been renewed for a second season and is available to stream on Hulu.



If you have any questions about TV, you can email me at BillsTVTalk@gmail.com. I will answer all your questions and will feature some of the questions I receive in a future Mailbag column.

Follow me on Twitter and Instagram @BillsTVTalk and on Facebook at BillsTVTalk for daily up-to-the-minute TV news and discussion. ♦

WEATHER 101 with AL KAPRIELIAN

When Summer Turns to Fall

Welcome to October and the first official month of the fall season. Foliage will peak in the Merrimack Valley mid to late October.

The peak will be a little later than last year due to the warm and wet September. With the wet summer the foliage may last a little longer this year compared to last year.

Last year we had the drought so with the trees stressed this caused the leaves to turn color faster and also drop from the trees faster. During October the days continue to get shorter and the nights longer. The sun angle will continue to get lower in the sky. This will result in daily HIGH temperatures falling by month’s end. We still can get warm and humid weather in October. It is still possible to see high temperatures reach 80 degrees or higher. It is also possible to see snow in October.

Back in 2011 just before Halloween, we had an October snowstorm. The wet nature of the snow made it heavy. Due to the weight of the snow, it caused numerous trees and power lines to fall causing power outages.

Recapping September, it was a very warm and wet month. The average high temperature for Boston in September was 69.7 degrees. This was the 2nd hottest September ever recorded in Boston

The hottest September ever recorded in Boston had an average temperature of 70.6 degrees which occurred in September 1983.

For Boston it was the hottest June, July and August summer ever. The average high temperature for Boston during these three months was 74.5 degrees, ranking as # 1 The second hottest summer # 2 was 74.1 degrees in September of 1949 and 1983.

Meteorologically, June through August, are known as Meteorological summer. In Boston the summer 2021 saw four heat waves. A heat wave occurs when the high temperature reaches 90 degrees or higher for three or more consecutive days. This summer Boston had 2 heat waves in June, zero in July and 2 in August.

June was the hottest month ever in Boston. June 30th had a temperature of 100 degrees.

Technically July is the hottest month of the year, but that was not the case this year. In fact, July had many cool days with above average rainfall. A persistent upper-level low pressure and upper disturbance over the Ohio Valley made for a cool and

wet July. Boston overall had a few days in July that saw high temperatures in the low 90s however, much less than normal.

This summer Boston had 24 days when the high temperature reached 90 degrees or higher. This ranked # 6.

Getting back to September, Boston had 28 days when the high temperature did not go below 70 degrees. The old record was 27 days in September, 1921

and 1930. September was an active month in terms of tropical weather. The month started after Hurricane Ida made landfall as a category 4 hurricane on August 29th near Port Fourchon, Louisiana at 11:55 AM central time which was 12:55 PM our time.

Tropical storm Ida caused major damage and over a million power outages in Louisiana. Many homes and

businesses were destroyed by Ida. Ida rapidly intensified over the very warm Gulf of Mexico ocean waters which were in the mid to upper 80s. These very warm ocean temperatures and also a lack of strong winds aloft caused Ida to rapidly intensify and reach category 4 status. Category 5 is the most severe.

With a very active month of September, the names of the hurricanes were at the end of the alphabet list. After this list is used, they will go to an auxiliary list. In past years the Greek alphabet would be used as the second list. This year they will not go to the Greek alphabet. We ended the month of September with Hurricane Sam which became a category 4 hurricane.

The good news is that Sam tracked east of Bermuda and stayed over the open Atlantic Ocean. Due to Sam being intense he caused large swells to move towards the New England coast causing dangerous rip currents for the first weekend of October.

Also, as September ended there was tropical storm Victor in the far open Atlantic Ocean. Victor was forecasted to stay out to sea. Even though September was unusually warm it ended on a cool note. High temperatures on September 30th were only in the 50s to low 60s. An upper-level low pressure system moved into New England from Quebec, bringing with it cold air aloft and chilly air at the surface. Will the warm weather pattern we saw in September return for October?

Also, will October feature more tropical storms and hurricanes? Stay tuned to next month’s article for these answers. Now with fall here make sure you winterize your underground sprinkler systems! Make sure your generators are ready for the winter season. In the meantime, enjoy fall and stay safe!! ♦





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Being Intentional!

Peter Larocque
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Greetings and God Bless you all in the wonderful name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! Here we are, October 2021! Wow!!! Where did September go? Time seems to be going by faster and faster these days, but in reality, it is just time!

This brings me to this phrase I am hearing a lot lately which is, “Be intentional”. The word intentional is an adjective, describing something done by intention or design. This of course comes from the noun, “intention” meaning what one intends to do or bring about. Back in my day, (another phrase I will discuss at another time,) I would use the phrase, “Live in the Now”! Notice in the Lord’s prayer Jesus said in, Matthew 6:11, “Give us this day our daily bread.” NKJV. Daily Bread, not weekly or monthly, or yearly bread. Jesus wants us to live daily, in the now, in the moment.

A great example of this is when Jesus referred back to the Old Testament, “bread from heaven” called Manna. Look at this written in Exodus 16:35, “And the children of Israel ate manna forty years, until they came to an inhabited land; they ate manna until they came to the border of the land of Canaan.” NKJV. They were instructed to only gather just enough Manna for the day. Nothing was to be kept over for the next day because whatever was leftover, rotted! Here is what Jesus said about this Manna recorded in John 6:31-33, “Our fathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”32 Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. 33 For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” NKJV. God gave Manna, this bread from Heaven only enough for one day! Likewise, God gave Jesus only for a one-time sacrifice. This is what the Bible says about this one-time sacrifice by Jesus Christ in Romans 6:9-10, “knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. 10 For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.” NKJV. And in 1 Peter 3:18, “For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,” NKJV.

So, just like the manna was only good for one day so also the Sacrifice, the Death, Burial, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ is a one-time deal! Jesus is not going to die again, nope!!! That’s done!!! It is Finished!!! The Bible can’t make it any clearer!!! When He comes back it will be for a whole new different purpose, so I

highly recommend to everyone, get with His agenda NOW, TODAY!!!

Tomorrow isn’t guaranteed! I am sure you have heard that phrase before also. Here is what Jesus said about tomorrow in Matthew 6:34, “Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.” NKJV. There is No Provision for the Past and No Provision for Tomorrow! But there is for today, now, right this moment! Jesus also said in, Matthew 6:31-33, “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ 32 For after all these things the Gentiles [meaning the world] seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” NKJV.

Worrying or being anxious about tomorrow gets you and me nowhere! There are two questions one shouldn’t ask! What if? and if only??? What if, drags you into the future while if only, drags you back to the past resulting in regret! Both places, future or past have no provision or Manna!

The Holy Spirit tells us in Philippians 4:6-7, “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” NKJV.

This is why TODAY, NOW, being in the MOMENT is where God wants us to be! Take a look at these verses, Luke 4:16-21, “And He began to say to them, “Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.” NKJV. Luke 19: 1-10, 5, “And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, “Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house.” NKJV. Luke 19:9, “And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham;” NKJV. The only time Jesus said to make haste [or Hurray] was when it came to Salvation! Other than that, we must not be filled with anxiety or be in a hurray for tomorrow, but be Present Now, Love Now, and Minister Now and Be Intentional!

So, how does one be Intentional, living in the Now? By being intentional in carry-out the details of your plans and goals while living in the now! Everything we do should be with intentionality, being present! Let’s take our lead from God Himself, as we read in Psalms 16:11, “You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.” NKJV.

In God’s presence, now, Today is fulness of Joy!
God Bless,
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Patricia M Hughes Tr & Virginia Hughes Tr, Deylee Torres, \$255,000, 28 Ferry St. Unit 10

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GLCAC: FROM PAGE 9

communicating with their children or are interested in pursuing education or job training to improve their employment opportunities.

This six-week program begins Thursday, Oct. 7 from 6 to 7 p.m. and will be held over Zoom. Registration is required.

To register, contact Jessica Ramirez at jramirez@glcac.org or 978-620-4753.

Facebook Live ‘Empowerment Hour’ Show Launches Oct. 12

GLCAC is launching a new monthly Facebook Live series on Oct. 12 to educate the community about its services and connect directly with clients in English and Spanish. GLCAC’s “Empowerment Hour” will be held the second Tuesday of each month from 1 to 2 p.m.

Hosts Eunice Lopez and Annmary Connor will feature a different GLCAC program each session. Viewers will be able to post questions while the event is taking place. The show video will also be available on GLCAC’s Facebook page for those unable to watch live.

Connor is the director of social service for GLCAC; Lopez, who speaks Spanish, is GLCAC’s housing manager.

The first “Empowerment Hour” will

highlight GLCAC’s Help Desk, which is located outside of 305 Essex St. in Lawrence. GLCAC opened the Help Desk last year as a way for clients and staff to safely interact during the pandemic. The Help Desk is a place where clients can get information or applications for any GLCAC program.

Also, during the first “Empowerment Hour,” Connor and Lopez will introduce Kesia Moreta, who oversees GLCAC’s Health Care Navigator Program. The Navigator program educates residents and small businesses about health and dental insurance options and helps them renew or sign up for coverage.

Open Enrollment for coverage through the Massachusetts Health Connector begins Nov. 1.

For more information about the Navigator program, call the office at 978-620-4784 or Moreta at 978-566-0137.

GLCAC is a multi-faceted social services agency that assists nearly 33,000 individuals each year through a range of programs including early childhood education, fuel assistance, WIC nutrition assistance, immigration services, lead poisoning prevention, child abuse prevention, English-language lessons, and consumer protection. ♦

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